



1430 Senate St. • Box 11469
Columbia, S.C. 29211
803-734-8666
Fax: 803-734-8676
TDD: 803-734-7298

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News

For South
Carolina Libraries

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Library for the Blind Dedicates New Home

Surrounded by an array of well-wishers, supporters and local press, the South Carolina State Library officially dedicated the new home of its Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped on October 24, 2000. Since the inception of the program in 1973, the library has been housed in various locations – all separate from its parent agency. In its new location, the talking books library is adjacent to other State Library departments for the first time.

The dedication program recognized individuals who assist the in the provision of services to more than 7,000 South Carolinians who are registered with the library. Contributions of the library's volunteers were spotlighted as well as members of the library's Advisory Council and Dr. Nell Carney of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind.

Mrs. Willie Saleeby, a user of the service, related how much talking books have meant to her as she learned to cope with her visual impairment. The program continued with remarks from Donald C. Capps, President Emeritus of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and Patsy Jones, President of the American Council for the Blind in South Carolina. Both expressed confidence that the future will bring a greater expansion of information services to blind and visually impaired and physically handicapped South Carolinians.

In her concluding remarks, Carolyn Hoover Sung, Chief of the Network Services of the Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, noted that South Carolina now has one of the best physical facilities housing a library for the blind in the nation.

After the ceremony, participants enjoyed a reception and group tours of the building. The tours allowed many to get a rare behind the scene look at the library's operations.

From the Director...

James B. Johnson, Jr.

The most discussed issue affecting South Carolina's libraries during the last Legislative Session was Internet filtering. Several bills were introduced to require libraries and schools to filter the Internet, as were amendments to budget bills. The General Assembly passed the Appropriations Act with a proviso requiring libraries to have policies regarding Internet use. The General Assembly also passed H.4426, which requires the same policies mentioned in the Appropriations Act, but further requires a test on the effectiveness of filtering. Governor Jim Hodges signed H.4426 on October 17, 2000. It is now Act 407.



Act 407 establishes a pilot program "to assess the feasibility of installing Internet filtering software in libraries..." The Budget and Control Board is given the responsibility of conducting this voluntary test. Libraries must be "located in the upstate, midstate, and lowcountry areas of South Carolina," and the Board "shall make every effort to ensure that one public school and one public library in each area are selected." At this point, no decisions have been made on which libraries will participate or on the methodology to be used to meet the requirements of Act 407.

Act 407 states:

"The evaluation shall be based on the following criteria:

- (1) the filtering programs' ability to limit or restrict access to sources of information or images that are considered obscene including hard-core pornography and child pornography;
- (2) the filtering programs' ability to limit or restrict access to sources of pornographic information or images that could be obscene as to minors or harmful to minors; and
- (3) the filtering programs' ability to successfully access and not filter legitimate research sites."

The pilot test will expire on June 29, 2001. A report to the General Assembly is due by December 1, 2001.

The South Carolina State Library will cooperate with the Budget and Control Board during the testing period. We have received calls from a number of individuals and software firms who were under the impression that the test was under the auspices of the South Carolina State Library. It is important to note that the Budget and Control Board, not the South Carolina State Library is responsible for conducting the test.

News from Around the State

Abbeville County

Hampton "Bill" Williams retired from the Abbeville Library Board of Trustees after a number of years of service. Mr. Williams has been a strong supporter of the Abbeville County Library, the Calhoun Falls Branch and the Maxie Agnew Branch Library.

Florence County

The Florence County Library Board announced the appointment of George L. Hobeika as the County Library Director. Mr. Hobeika had been the interim director and has served in several other capacities at the library, including Head of Technical Services and Chief Reference Librarian. He is a native of Florence.

Francis Marion University

The James A. Rogers Library was recognized as one of the founding members of the Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORG). CORC is a cooperative effort between the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and libraries around the world to organize and facilitate access to electronic information resources on the World Wide Web.

Greenville County

The Greenville County Council approved \$22 million for the construction of a new downtown library and two branch libraries. The cost includes \$18 million for a Main Library on Buncombe Street and the remainder for libraries in Fountain Inn and on Augusta Road. Completed construction date for all three libraries is 2002.

South Carolina State Library

Edna Horning, who has served as Reference Librarian for the last 27 years, resigned in October. She is currently employed in the Information Services Department of the Richland County Public Library.

Chris Yates has joined the Department for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as the Collection

Development Librarian. His previous experience includes Circulation Librarian at Richland County Public Library and Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Librarian for Columbia College. He is a graduate of Wofford College with a degree in Business Economics and received his Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina.

Katherine Smith is the new Readers Advisor for the Department for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She is a recent graduate of Furman University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Her previous experience includes working as a counselor for the Rock Hill YMCA.

Spartanburg County

R. Todd Stephens is the newly appointed County Librarian of the Spartanburg County Public Libraries. Mr. Stephens was the Coordinator of Development for the library since 1997. He received his undergraduate from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, and he holds a Masters of Educational Personnel Services and a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina.

University of South Carolina

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Ackerman, long-time supporters of USC's Thomas Cooper Library, have recently established the Dorothy and Stephen Ackerman Endowment Fund at the University. Net income from the fund will be used by the libraries for materials, special acquisitions and preservation for the benefit of the Departments of Foreign Languages, English, History, Philosophy and their dependent programs.

USC's Conservation Laboratory has recently received a grant of \$213,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Service. The grant will be used to present both live and televised workshops in which professional conservators will discuss topics of interest to South Carolina's small libraries and museums such as care of photographs, documents and paintings.

FOSCL Holds Annual Meeting

The Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) presented several awards at its annual meeting on September 23 at the South Carolina State Library. Senator J. Yancey McGill was given the Public Service Award for his active involvement in fundraising for public library buildings and for state support for public libraries as a member of the Senate Finance Committee.



Senator J. Yancey McGill,
winner of the Public Service Award



Sarah D. McMaster, winner of the
Outstanding Library Staff Award

Fairfield County Library Director Sarah D. McMaster was presented with the Outstanding Library Staff Award. Mrs. McMaster was nominated for developing a strong library staff and making the library into a true media center for the county. She was also credited for helping make the Fairfield Friends of the Library become a vital and productive part of the community.

The Boiling Springs Friends of the Library were awarded the Outstanding Program of the Year Award for their event Fall in the Park, an annual community festival held every October in Boiling Springs. The Outstanding Business Award was presented to the *Boiling Springs Sentry* for its publication of Fall in the Park and other articles concerning the Friends of Library projects.



Friends of Boiling Springs and the Boiling Springs Sentry
proudly display their awards

The Wiggins family of Harstville was selected to receive the inaugural John H. Landrum Advocacy Award. The award was presented in recognition of the family's contributions to the improvement of library services in Hartsville and Darlington County.



FOSCL President Clyde McCantz welcomes the membership

Book Lovers Paradise in Charleston

Catherine Boykin, Public Relations Librarian, Charleston County Public Library.

The 18th annual used book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library in Charleston on September 22nd through the 24th was a success with more than \$92,000 in gross sales, topping last year's record of \$90,000. Added to proceeds from three smaller one-day book sales held earlier at library branches, the Friends have raised over \$100,000 this year. About 40,000 books were sold at the annual sale at Gaillard Auditorium in September, involving more than 200 volunteer members of the Friends organization.

All through the year, volunteers of the Friends collect and sort used books, tapes and records at the Charleston County Public Library (CCPL). Those books in good condition are stored and sold at community book sales scheduled at CCPL branches during the year as well as at the big sale held in September. We have already scheduled next year's annual book sale for September 21-23, 2001.

Proceeds from book sales are allocated by the Friends for purchase of special equipment, to underwrite CCPL events and programs open to the public, to assist in staff training and for purchase of special collections for the South Carolina Room and other materials not funded in the CCPL operating budget. The Friends have included in the budget for next year a \$40,000 grant for equipment and furnishings for the new Johns Island Branch scheduled for groundbreaking next spring.

For more information, please contact Ms. Boykin (843) 805-6801
or Email: boykinc@ccpl.org



Booksale chairman Jim Decker (r) and co-chair John Milkeriet sport red vests to help identify themselves as volunteers.



Scenes from "Éclair Affair", a preview night for FOL members only and their guests.

Anderson Celebrates New Library

Marybeth Evans, Community Resource Coordinator, Anderson County Library.

After a decade of dreaming and planning and building, the new Anderson County Library was officially opened to the public on September 24. More than 1,000 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and then streamed into the library's airy foyer.

Festivities celebrating the completion of the \$13.5 million project began on the 22nd with a luncheon for the library staff. An evening reception was held for county and city officials, along with invited guests, during which they were free to tour the building. On Saturday, the new library was the site of a members-only reception for the Friends of the Anderson County Library.

The building's completion was the cornerstone of the weekend's "Celebrate Anderson" event held Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon, Children's Services Librarian Donna Long and her staff had filled the wagons of more than 200 children with the remaining books to be taken to the new building. They paraded to the new library, with one wagon reading, "Library or Bust!" Finally the ribbon was cut and the library was open.

The dome-topped 96,000 square foot building is a big change from the former one-story 25,700 square foot library. The first floor houses the Friends store and café, meeting rooms, a copier room for the public, computers and much more space for the collection. The new building is also the site of the Scripps Howard Children's Library, named because of the generous \$50,000 donation from the Scripps Howard Foundation, part of which will be used to commission a sculpture for the library's permanent public art collection. The children's library also has its own meeting room, playroom and an outdoor garden and natural amphitheater.

The second floor features the South Carolina Room, containing the John and Jane Major Collection of South Carolina history, with complete state census figures and microfiche of rare family histories from around the country.

**For more information, please contact Ms. Evans (864) 260-4500,
or Email: mevans@anderson.lib.sc.us**



The copper dome and 28-foot columns are distinctive features of the new library.



The many patrons who came to enjoy opening day at the new library.

Library Series Speaks to Toddlers and their Parents

The Waccamaw Branch of the Georgetown County Library Systems is the recipient of a grant from the Libraries for the Future, a New York-based nonprofit organization. The grant will support a Family Place program, which started at the library on September 16.

This free program will promote family literacy and the use of library services. It consists of three five-week sessions, beginning in September, January and May of a Parent-Child Workshop, on Saturday mornings. The program is designed for toddlers one to three years of age and their parent(s) or caregiver(s).

The goal of the program is to create a family resource for the Georgetown County area. Information will be shared on parenting skills, family health resources and access to local services and agencies. Each week, a different professional resource person (child development, speech and hearing, nutrition, physical movement) attends the workshop and speaks informally to the parents. A story time is held, arts and craft projects are completed and a play area with age appropriate materials is set up for the children. Everyone is also reminded to apply for a library card.

The Family Place program was created and tested with great success in over thirty libraries in New York State. The Waccamaw Library is presently the only library in South Carolina to offer this program. Anyone interested in obtaining additional information on the Family Place Program or the Parent-Child Workshop may contact Cynthia Rudolph, Branch Manager, at the Waccamaw Branch Library, 24 Commerce Drive, Pawleys Island, SC 29585, or telephone (843) 237-4646.



Story time draws parents and children into activities at the Family Place.



Celebrating Reading 2000

More than 75,000 children participated in summer reading programs across the state in the summer of 2000. This was twenty percent of the children ages three to 11 in South Carolina. One third of participants completed the requirements to finish the program. Some public libraries decreased the number of weeks their program ran in response to schools starting earlier in August. Even with shorter programs children borrowed 1.25 million books from libraries.

Reading medals continued to be a sought after award. One five-year-old girl at a Richland County Public Library branch cupped her hands around her new reading medal and said, " I'm rich! I'm rich!" In Oconee County, one grandmother told children's librarian, Sally Long, that her grandchildren wore their medals for two weeks after winning them and then took them along on vacation.

The Greenville County Library notes an increase in school and public library cooperation over the past two years. This year the school media specialists shared their summer reading grade level lists with the library. These lists were printed with the summer reading program information on the back, and it became very popular with the parents and children.

Public libraries continue to receive reports of how summer reading makes a difference in the lives of children. In Beaufort County a new reader was refusing to read because of fear of making mistakes. Summer reading, with its emphasis on reading for fun, let her once again see the joy of books and reading. "These kind of stories make all the work worthwhile," said children's librarian Wendy Allen.



Jane Connor, Youth Services Consultant,
Email: janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us

A Successful Summer in Williamsburg

Channie Powell, Children Services Librarian, Williamsburg County Library.

The 2000 Summer Reading Program at Williamsburg County was a cooperative effort of parents, schools and local businesses that took an active interest in children and how they spend their summer vacation. The first stage of the program was to actively recruit and enroll over 1,150 children ranging in ages from 3-12 years old to participate in summer reading at the library. Joanna Dennis, our Adult Services Librarian, registered between 35-40 teenagers in the Summer Teen Reads Program. Many of these young people were first time participants in summer reading and enjoyed the special activities at the library.

The campaign for the library reading program began in early April when I visited all primary, elementary and junior high schools in the county. Sign-up sheets, posters and announcements were left at each school. Children could register by grade, class or group. These sheets were collected by the school librarian and returned to the public library. This special effort paid off in many ways as we enrolled the highest number of children ever in the reading program and averaged more than 500 books checked out during story hour.

The reading program offered something for all attending and everyone enjoyed the activities. This was all made possible by contributions from several local businesses and banks in the community. Due to a limited budget of \$300 or less, I was able to gather enough funds to provide educational enrichment events for the children in the program. Letters were mailed in early April asking for donations of \$50, \$75 or \$100 to help sponsor summer reading activities. Consequently, we received over \$850 to help pay for presenter fees, travel expenses and program costs. Local vendors, fast food chains and other stores gave over \$650 in incentives and coupons to help encourage children to come to the library and join the summer reading club. The Friends of the Hemingway Branch Library gave \$425 to help pay for programs at their branch. In total, we collected over \$1,950 in contributions and in-kind donations for the library.

By the end of the program, we had a record-breaking summer in enrollment, attendance and circulation for our Children and Young Adult Services. At our final event in late July, we issued over 250 certificates to young listeners and readers. We also realized that our success would not have been possible without the assistance from the business community, parents, teachers and others that encouraged the children by supporting our program this summer.

For more information, please contact Ms. Powell (843) 354-9486.

Having Fun with History. "America's Library" website for kids and families debuts

"America's Library" (<http://www.americaslibrary.gov>) a new easy-to-use and entertaining website designed especially for children and their families, opened this past spring as a major bicentennial project of the Library of Congress. The site was created to provide an entertaining educational experience that draws on the unparalleled American historical collections of the Library.

Through use of stories, richly embellished with photographs, maps, prints, manuscripts, and audio and video recordings from the Library's collections, "America's Library" invites users to learn about our past through extraordinary materials, many of which have never been seen by the public. Interactive elements such as "Scavenger Hunt" and "Send a Postcard" will encourage exploration of the site, animated "teasers" on the main home page will delight users of all ages. Questions invite children to talk to their family and friends about what they have learned.

Bold graphics and bright colors will entice users to click on the following main home page links:

- ◆ **Meet Amazing Americans**-Do you know what Abraham Lincoln had in his pockets on the night he was assassinated? Or the name of the newspaper that Frederick Douglas started to promote freedom for all slaves? These are among the fascinating facts conveyed in this section about these and other amazing Americans such as George Washington, Buffalo Bill, Harriet Tubman, Houdini and Teddy Roosevelt.
- ◆ **Jump Back in Time**-Who was the first woman doctor in the United States? On what day did Thurgood Marshall become a Supreme Court Justice? Click on "Jump Back in Time" and visit any day in history.
- ◆ **Explore the States**-Take a trip across country without ever leaving your home. Do you know how Virginia got its name? Or why people from Oklahoma are called "Sooners"?
- ◆ **Join America at Play**-From America's pastime-baseball-to dancing; the nation at play is the focus. Everyone thinks of baseball as a uniquely American game, but do you know its origin? Is break-dancing a recent invention?

The content of the website has been reviewed by historians at the Library of Congress and by James Gilbert, Distinguished University Professor of American History at the University of Maryland.

America's Library marks the first time in its history the Library of Congress has created a public service advertising campaign in partnership with the Advertising Council. The spots have been distributed to 3,200 television stations and more than 6,000 radio stations nationwide. In addition to the spots, an innovative Web banner featuring a pop-up film will be available for viewing and downloading through the Ad Council website at [http:// www.adcouncil.org](http://www.adcouncil.org).

This issue features some recent adult fiction with a South Carolina setting.

Brown, Sandra. *The alibi*. Warner Books, 1999. 490p. \$25.95.

Brown, Steve. *Color her dead. ("A generation X mystery")* Chick Springs Publishing (P. O. Box 1130, Taylors, SC 29687), 1999. 259p. \$13.95.

Frank, Dorothea Benton. *Sullivan's Island: a Lowcountry tale*. Jove Books, 2000. 383p. \$6.99.

Goldman, Judy. *The slow way back: a novel*. Morrow, 1999. 274p. \$24.00.

Hart, Carolyn G. *White elephant dead: a death on demand mystery*. Avon Twilight, 1999. 277p. \$23.00.

Hays, Tommy. *In the family way: a novel*. Random House, 1999. 207p. \$19.95.

Michaels, Fern. *Yesterday*. Kensington, 1999. 373p. \$24.00.

Morgan, Robert. *Gap Creek: a novel*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1999. 326p. \$22.95.

Morris, Lynn and Gilbert Morris. *Toward the sunrise*. Five Star, 1998. (Hardcover ed.) 408p. \$22.95.

Roberts, Nora. *Carolina moon*. Putnam's Sons, 2000. 438p. \$24.95.

Williams, Carol. *By wonders and by war: a novel*. Swiss American Historical Society by Masthof Press (220 Mill Rd., Morgantown, PA 19543-9701), 1999. 508p. \$14.95.

November 13-19, 2000

Children's Book Week

December 7, 2000

Interlibrary Loan Managers Exchange
South Carolina State Library

December 19, 2000

State Residential Institutional Librarians
Interest Group Meeting
South Carolina State Library

January 19-20, 2001

Public Library Trustee Institute
Columbia Sheraton Hotel

For local literary events, check the
Palmetto Book Alliance Website:

[http:// www.state.sc.us/scsl/lib/pba/html](http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/lib/pba/html)

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- Services for the Blind and Handicapped
- South Carolina Library Network
- Reference and Information Services
- Interlibrary Loan Services
- DISCUS - South Carolina's Virtual Library
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- Grants-in-Aid
- Continuing Education
- Technical Assistance for Library Construction
- State and Federal Documents
- Statistical Information
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Compiled by Mary Morgan, Reference Librarian
Email: marym@leo.scsl.state.sc.us. Telephone : (803) 734-8866.

South Carolina State Library
(803) 734-8666
FAX: (803) 734-8676
TDD: (803) 734-7298
Web site: <http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/>

Administration
James B. Johnson, Jr., Director
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**Library for the Blind and
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Guynell Williams, Director
(803) 734-4611
Toll Free: 1-800-922-7818

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information to be included in this
newsletter to Lucinda M. Kress
Email: lucinda@leo.scsl.state.sc.us

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Columbia, S.C. 29211

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